



Filed Via Express Mail pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10

Record No.: EV 332 247 508 US

On: JANUARY 2, 2004

By:

Linda Hastings
LINDA E. HASTINGS

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enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Acct. No. 50-1290.

Attorney Docket No.:NEKU 19.181 (100806-00056)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Eiki HASHIMOTO

Serial No.: 10/015,209

Filed: November 16, 2001

Title: SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING APPARATUS
AND A SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING METHOD
IN WHICH THE NUMBER OF STEPS IN A CIRCUIT DESIGN
AND A LAYOUT DESIGN IS REDUCED

Examiner: Annette M. Thompson

Group Art Unit: 2825

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed on September 2, 2003, the period for responding thereto having been set to expire after December 2, 2003, the period for response not being extended for more than one month, please amend the subject application as follows:

01/23/2004 D:R:W: 00000001 501298 10015209

11174865.01

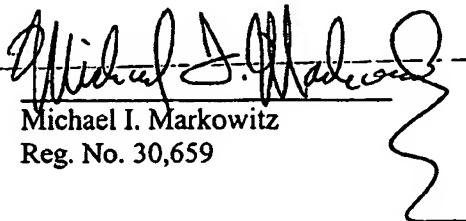
91 FC:1291

172.00 DA

Please charge Deposit Account 50-1290 the sum of \$172.00 for two (2) independent
claims added by this amendment in excess of the those already paid for in this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



Michael I. Markowitz
Reg. No. 30,659

Enclosure: Verified English Translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-354306,
filed on November 21, 2000.
Amended Fig. 4.

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MIM:lh